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Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Solid Waste Management Unit

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REFUSE GENERATION UPDATE

On December 29, 1986, the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) and the DEP reported on updated waste tonnage data for the benefit of the state's Municipal Solid Waste Recycling Task Force. CRRA and DEP analyses of data were conducted independently and arrived at the same general conclusion:

Since the DEP's 1984 report of .7 tons/person/year statewide average, per capita waste generation in Connecticut has increased to:

.84 TPY/person (CRRA)

.80 TPY/person (DEP)

Recognizing the imprecise nature of any statewide average, this is remarkably close agreement. This also emphasizes the need to update the April, 1984, "Report to Connecticut Municipalities on Refuse Generation." The 1984 report illustrated virtually no change in per capita waste generation from 1978 to 1984. Over the past two years, however, Connecticut has generated more trash. The statewide generation total of 2.2 Million TPY estimated in 1984 would more accurately estimated today at 2.6 or 2.7 Million TPY. This change is very important today, as statewide systems for both recycling and waste-to-energy are designed and brought into service over the next few years. During these years of waste management systems design, there is more need for accurate data on the waste stream. Details of the new waste generation data follow:

The DEP data is mailed quarterly to SWMU in the form of monthly tonnages received at regional solid waste management facilities (landfills that receive waste from more than one municipality) and at transfer stations. The tonnages are totaled from scale-house records at these facilities. The monthly figures allow a look at seasonal variations and at annual totals. Space in the Gazette does not allow a tabulation of these data, but anyone wishing a photocopy of data tables can write or phone the Solid Waste Management Unit. Summarized, the data can be described as representing the same seasonal trends illustrated in the April, 1984, report. There are peaks in the spring and summer months and lows in the winter months (the perigee being February). Seasonal variations can be as much as 40% off the average monthly value.

Average annual totals can be looked at from a statewide perspective by simply combining total population served by all reporting facilities:

For all facilities reporting to DEP (and tabulated thus far):

Total Population served = 1,192,821

Total Tonnage measured = 958,674 (in some cases 1985 total
in other cases FY 85-86 total)

For all municipalities quantified by CRRA

Total Population = 1,783,268

Total Tonnage = 1,503,762 (recent data from six project-
area reports)

The DEP data shows .80 tons per capita, and the CRRA data shows .84 tons per capita. One should bear in mind that these general numbers are not STATIC values; that is, with every month's worth of new data, there are minor changes to be expected.

The next step from a statewide perspective is to apply the generalized per capita waste generation figure to Connecticut's population. This will estimate total municipal solid waste generated in the state. According to the Connecticut Department of Health Services, the 1985 population is 3,198,230.

$$\begin{array}{r} 3,198,230 \\ \times .80 \\ \hline 2,558,584 \end{array} \quad \text{say 2.6M TPY}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3,198,230 \\ \times .84 \\ \hline 2,686,513 \end{array} \quad \text{say 2.7M TPY}$$

The report "Local Official's Guide for Waste Planning," which was released at the December 11, 1986 conference "Connecticut Recycles!" should be adjusted by anyone using it to reflect the new data.

REGIONAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLING PLAN MEETS DEADLINE

Connecticut's draft plan for statewide recycling on a regional scale was submitted to Governor O'Neill by DEP's Commissioner Pac on schedule, on December 31, 1987. As outlined in the transmittal letter to the Governor:

...This document represents a joint effort on the parts of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Municipal Solid Waste Recycling Task Force. As noted in the acknowledgements, the technical portions of the document reflect the work of the consultants to the Task Force.

The document is largely complete, containing a detailed description of Connecticut's commitment to recycling and a comprehensive plan for implementing a statewide program based on regional intermediate processing centers for recyclable materials. The goal is to reduce Connecticut's municipal solid waste stream through recycling and related efforts by 25% (by weight) within five years.

Prior to transmittal of the draft on the January 1 deadline, the Task Force held its final meeting on December 29. There was much discussion and many comments by members of the Task Force. These comments were outlined and attached to the executive summary of the document. During this month, Lois Hager of the Solid Waste Management Unit is endeavoring to finalize the draft and incorporate views and comments made by Task Force members.

Perhaps the central issues are the unanswered questions, "How much will the statewide regional recycling program cost?" and "How will the increased availability of recycled materials in Southern New England and New Jersey affect the markets for these materials?" There are nearly \$13 million available in the Exxon restitution fund and the Recycling Trust Fund. There is a consensus of opinion among members of the Task Force that this amount will not be sufficient to develop the seven to nine intermediate processing centers needed in the state. As other states construct and operate IPC's and as the Connecticut program is implemented, program costs will be better defined.

The market question will take longer to resolve, but it is expected that markets for the recycled materials will improve after an initial period of adjustment. Increased volumes of high quality materials will become available and states will become increasingly involved in market development through incentive programs and procurement of products manufactured with recycled materials.

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